Meeting 5 Minutes (04/09/2024) DRAFT

with time ( ) and *action expected*

School Improvement Council
Edith L. Frierson Elementary, virtual meeting
Tuesday, Apr 9, 2024
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions – Members and Guests, *those in **bold** are voting*
   Attendees: **Ross Anderson, Josh Roberts, Kristi Harvey, Bethany Burnsed**, **Melissa Reese**, **Latrice Smalls**, **Audrey Mack**, **Pat Cline**, **Monica Smith**, Brad Kolata, Sophie De La Tour DuPavillon, Deborah Grant, Nicole Barnes (w/ Hope Ivanova and xxx), Tracae McClure, Bridget Beggs, Michelle Faust, Jill Cheney, Rev Gertie Ford, Darlene Roberson, Aaron White; CCSD staff: Anita Huggins, Jeffrey Borowy, Jennifer Swearingen, Quenetta White, Vanessa Denney

   Meeting Recording with video:
   https://fathom.video/share/Dzu1NNBSMZEsgsJkF7beYVak7hMZSTBs
   Meeting Recording: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g38StJh-4plWjB6dqvTGIqnG2-ycoGUF/view?usp=sharing



2. Focused Discussion with CCSD staff, Gymnatorium/Multipurpose Room
   Kick off questions, "How can we get it, and what do we need to do or what steps for budgeting do we need to do to get budgeted?" CCSD Chief Operating Officer, Mr Borowy, was given the opportunity to explain the financial information and process related to the project.

   Mr. Borowy acknowledged the positive work of SICs and our consistent messaging. He also gave credit to his team, in their defense, for helping to provide improvements within

the existing school structure for Montessori environment, which invested more dollars per student than any other school in the district in the past 6 years.
13 elementary schools are currently without a multipurpose room. There is no current priority list for which school will be next. He clarified the district considers this a Multipurpose room, not a Gymnatorium, for their terminology use.

"Frierson multipurpose room" has been on **Fixed Cost of Ownership (FCO)** list for a number of years, such as WO# 539611 since 2019; still on 2024 list below the funding line, and current list approved by Board for FY2024-25 also below the funding line. No specific rhyme or reason for projects selected to complete, but very few projects of this magnitude ($$$) are funded from this FCO list. Recent largest was $800k, and a multipurpose room will far exceed that amount. Difficulty lies in the spending of the allocated money with 1 year timeframe, which is not ideal for a project of this scope with permitting process, and design/construction possibly spanning multiple years. Frierson is only school on FCO list with submitted WO request and shows consistent need.

Second source of funding: **Sales and Use Tax Program,** but takes long term planning, up to 6 six year, to account for community meetings in each district to generate broad project list across all districts to be approved by board then put on ballot as referendum for voting cycle, which then takes couple more years to begin collecting funds. Example was Phase V (2023-28) Capital Program for building funds began in 2018/19 with community meetings throughout the district. D9 input was overwhelming desire to build a new school to replace Mount Zion which Board approved then made it on 2020 ballot among list of District projects as Sales and Use Tax Referendum (2020 ballot question) and passed. No recollection of comments regarding multipurpose room at Frierson (especially with building renovations in-progress for Montessori rooms transitions). Caveat of how Murray La-Saine got a multi-purpose room was excess funds received from sales tax cycle Phase IV (2017-22) so scope was extended as part of listed project "Renovation and equipping at Murray-LaSaine Montessori Annex" on Sales and Use Tax Referendum (2014 ballot question). This is example of how a project can get done after the fact.

There could still be opportunity during this current Sales and Use Tax Phase V (2023-2028) if additional funds received to get Frierson multipurpose room project under general line item "District Wide Building Improvements" for which there is no current priority list, but still early in the funding period with no specific criteria setup for determining prioritization yet and haven't priced everything out. 2023 tax revenue numbers weren't as strong as hoped but still above the 2% growth. Frierson will be put on this list for competition and consideration.

Longer term approach to consider next cycle of Capital Program after 2028 [Phase VI (2029-34) cycle] as CCSD will soon begin process for public comment and internal assessment for capital needs. This includes replacing 130 trailers at various schools, other multipurpose rooms, growth in district, program/Montessori growth, and enrollment projections. This is the long-term program to get funded for a facility like this.

CCSD internal review of Frierson enrollment, waitlist, and projecting growth were discussed prior to this meeting with Principal Smalls, Ms. Swearingen, Ms. White and other leadership where they acknowledged need for more spaces to grow the Montessori program and meet demand in Primary and Lower Elementary areas. So Mr. Borowy visited school and discussing with his planning staff to develop plan to extend the hall with those 2 classrooms. As they develop that plan, they will also look at location for multipurpose room and to size appropriately for target school number. Previous renovation plans had placeholder box for space but no other detail per Mr. Borowy's discussion with design team, architect.

Clarification on WO request not getting addressed: Capital Prog. vs. Facilities FCO. Facilities Management receives all work orders. Routine work orders, emergencies, or small orders are assigned and taken on by Facilities. If they are bigger and need design and planning, they are assigned to capital programs. Somewhere between WO submitted in 2019 and after Jasmeen Shaw was hired to Capital Programs in late 2021, it was reviewed again and determined capital projects need to review Frierson WO but still maintained in backlog on the FCO list.

How do we proceed with receiving multipurpose room after all this time and missteps? Proof of Need. Requests are not evaluated based on when it was asked for but rather measure of need. In the 9 years Mr. Borowy has looked at project requests, he's always tried to measure the needs.

Example: How large is largest class, and how large is largest room being used for PE? Compare with other 13 schools without the space.

Example: Who has middle school students now? Frierson on track to have Adolescence soon. Haven't done prioritization to this degree but b/c of our interest, may have to see where it falls.

Example: Baptist Hill doesn't have an auditorium. The only high school without

No clear answer how to fit Frierson into the upcoming prioritization list but District needs to put accurate budget amount on each project and determine prioritization, while working with staff, levels of leaders, and principals.

Desire for clear steps and sharing how the process works openly with us/ stakeholders and public is appreciated.

Top priority for Principal's focus is educational results [academics]. District committed to focus on providing adequate classroom space and grow program, which could result in increased student enrollment and elevated prioritization.

Question: Will the low number of students always put us at a disadvantage?
Response: Not necessarily. There's an opportunity to place higher priority based on other criteria that suits Frierson well. Such as the presence of adolescents, which other elementaries don't have and increase the size. Also appreciate us looking at other ways to look at Frierson for prioritization, such as equalization schools still without multipurpose space.

Request to prioritize Frierson's rural setting and lack of recreational/athletic facilities on the island. BOT, Darlene Roberson, urged to review holistic perspective of being a community school and potentially providing athletic shared space in rural setting. Academics and Athletics go hand-in-hand. There are no other facilities on Wadmalaw Island, this project should receive higher prioritization. Since it's the only school on Wadmalaw, there are no other schools to go to. If we are sincerely going to have community schools, we should not have to bus our children to Johns Island.
Jeffrey Borowy: Acknowledged the uniqueness of Frierson and it's location. He mentioned there would need to be someone to operate the facilities, and this is a way for community partners to assist.

Funding Source Partners: How can we bring other sources of funding to the picture to accomplish our goal?
Point of caution is that the county gets stuck with the bill if there's a lack of commitment. The rural location may be very much part of the story to secure a funding partnership. There may have been past discussions with David Bennet of Charleston County Parks and Recreation and the school District. Mr. Borowy doesn't know who at the District was in direct conversation about this opportunity to partner with Charleston County Parks & Recreation but would like to know and possibly reengage.

Ms.Huggins, Mr Borowy, and Principal Smalls worked on and will share an FAQ document with some of the details and suggestions we have on getting this funded. This document will give us some guidance on how to achieve.

Request for pricing estimate for funding prioritization: What will the costs for the project be to have discussion for other sources for funding? 5 million is not based on a detailed estimate. The District has never built a multipurpose room for such a small school. The project needs to be sized, not too big and not too small. The larger it is, the more challenging it is to get it funded. Mr. Borowy's team is working on how much space is needed now. They've reviewed other MPR, such as Hunley Park ES, and talking to the principal and the PE Teacher. They need an accurate square footage, to generate an accurate price. It needs to be spaced out for all the elementary schools. Minnie Hughes, Jane Edwards, Frierson, we haven't built out MPS for schools of that size.
Capital prog Mr Borowy should have pricing estimate in a month.

Programming needs at Frierson in-progress. The first priority is additional classrooms (Education) and putting suggestions on the table for the additional rooms. A meeting for planning growth with Mr. Borowy and Principal Smalls happened to discuss building classrooms and possibly together with a multipurpose room and/or providing exploratory spaces for music, arts, fine arts.

Discussion of use of the space and type of space that's needed

A multipurpose room may not serve the Montessori community's diverse needs in a strategic way. They might have their science, their math, their environmental studies which are more conducive to the learning.

Comment was made that its difficult to hold onto those adolescent students when there isn't any kind of athletic facility. Quenetta White mentioned her experience transitioning Jane Simmons downtown to a Montessori program with Adolescents. She felt it was not so dependent upon having a multipurpose room but community embracing the Montessori program. She feels there's need to grow Montessori program and have diverse spaces tailored to ages and types of learning, which will become draw for growth.

Tracy McClure, commented that as Frierson alumnus, this passion comes from a history of having to learn in trailers and want better for current and future students. Jeff acknowledged how challenging it is to educate students in trailers and that there are currently 120 of them in District he wants replaced. She thanks everyone for their continued interest in making the Multipurpose room a reality. She encouraged us to look at the Sales Tax option for funding the facility.

Kristi thanked everyone for the discussion and suggested follow up will occur soon.

3. Approval of Minutes (2)

   Review on screen of Mtg 4 Minutes - ELF SIC 03.12.2024
   Meeting Minutes were revised to correct some misspellings of names.
   MOTION: A motion was made to approve the meeting 3 minutes as corrected (Josh Roberts). Motion Seconded (Melissa Reese). No discussion. Vote approved unanimously.

4. Principals Report (3) - School Update, including title 1:
   a. Note that the Parent Climate Survey is in its final week. Reminder will be sent out by Nicole for a final push to complete.
   b. Title 1 meeting: Ms D. - Mostly the same plan as previous year. Drafted the parent engagement plan for next year and signed off on that. If anyone would like to review, please request it from Ms. D.
   c. ESSER funds
      i. ending with loss of math & reading interventionist and guidance counselor
      ii. Will have 0.2 funding (1 day per week) for SEL/guidance
      iii. There is a weighted need calculation to distribute additional funds
      iv. The funds must go towards Pupils in Poverty, MLL Students, and Students receiving Special Education.
   d. Additional funds are being proposed to be used for a full-time guidance counselor and SEL (social emotional learning) component. Monica Smith mentioned from a disciplinary review board standpoint, it's very important to have a guidance counselor especially after 5th grade.

5. Committee Reports
   a. Report to Parents – Principal Smalls (5)
      i. Information: draft to review, final to families end of April
      ii. Ms. Smalls shared a draft which includes data, words, and images.
   b. Reading Goals, Literacy Plan – Samantha Kurtz (1)
      i. Information: reading materials & goals update

c. D9, 5-2-1 Planning – Pat Cline (5)
    i. Information: follow-up coordinating of interest
    ii. Kristi Harvey shared the Mt. Zion SIC Chair, Michelle Faust, is coordinating another D9 collaborative meeting early May, and she saw the James Island Math Science Event spotlight by CCSD which looked great.
d. Gymnatorium Multi-Purpose Room – Ross, Bridget, Monica (2)
    i. Information: Petition update (See above) and report to follow
e. Salt Marsh education & Engagement – Taylor Bensinger, Lisa Vandiver (2)
    i. Information: Program update, scheduled events
    ii. Programming is ongoing with end of year field trips scheduled.
    Action: Kristi to inquire about continued programming and partnership interest
f. Garden Committee – Hope Ivanova, Katie Pfeninger, Kristi Harvey (1)
    i. Information: Green Heart, Magnolia GC, & Volunteering update
g. Tennis – Ashley Carrigan (1)
    i. Information: Participation Update, transportation
    Action: Kristi to followup with 3rd Serve for possible funding partnership for a Multipurpose Room can be used with Tennis
h. Mentoring: Ross Anderson, Josh Roberts (1)
    i. Information: Participation update, transportation
    ii. Principal Smalls and Ms D: Hosted introductory meeting for mentor lunches and recess. Purpose is fellowship.
    iii. Historical & SEL data on behavior and a spike in behavioral issues prompted the need to start the program pilot now
    iv. Had an orientation, invited some of the mentors who are not necessarily matched with students but interact with them regularly at lunch & recess.
    v. Female mentors needed as well as male to be part of the program.
    vi. Hope for more robust program will be developed coming into next year.
    vii. Question: Will we be losing a guidance counselor?
    Answer from Ms. Smalls. Yes, we will loose Esser Funds, however we will have $86k towards a full time counselor, which is not enough for a salary plus benefits, but it is something.
i. Historical Marker – Audrey Mack (1)
    i. Information: Application Status Update
    ii. Maggie Dangerfield has continued research and finding deed. Bridget and Ms Smalls attended the last meeting. Next meeting is scheduled virtually for April 25th.
    iii. It was decided to invite a member of the New Bethlehem Baptist Church on the Island because Rockville Elementary School started there.
    Action: Audrey Mack will share a slide of the original Structure built in 1955 which is on the older side of the school will be pictured.

6. Public Comment:
    i. Kiawah home tours proceed fun literacy, visual and musical arts programs for school children on Johns and Wadmalaw Island. Brad noted August /

September are when the procurement periods end for Kiawah Cares and it may also apply to Thirdserve or other.
Action: Brad Kolata to follow up w/ Kiawah Home Tour organization

ii. Proactively explore other partnership opportunities which could improve interest to District to prioritize funding multipurpose room.
iii. Continue to report on progress and action plan with Multipurpose room requests with CCSD and possibly explore Sales Tax funding source since we are all paying taxes

7. Announcements: tabled

8. Review assignments and Agenda for next meeting: SIC succession focus next month Ross will send out meeting minutes.

9. Meeting Adjourned: 6:57 pm
Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

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Edith L. Frierson SIC Meeting
April 9, 2024
Multi-Purpose Room Planning FAQ

This document is intended to provide the Frierson SIC and Friends of Frierson with helpful information to aid in navigating the process of advocating for a "Multi-Purpose Room" from start to finish. In it, we have shared some examples from Early College High School's (ECHS) process, which began in 2019. The examples are shared as ECHS is similar to Frierson in that it, too, is a small school, and one of the primary aims of their project was to add a gym and gathering space for the benefit of their school community.

Q: How do capital projects get funded, generally?
A: Large multi-purpose room projects are funded through the Sales Tax Program or, in rare cases, through the annual Fixed Cost of Ownership (FCO) program (which was finalized by the Board of Trustees in February 2024 for FY25). Funded projects for the 2023-2028 sales tax program have been established.

If revenues for the current Sales Tax Program are higher than projected and funded projects are not in need of additional revenue, other building improvements may be considered. Facilities Management is currently developing a list of potential projects for consideration which will include a multi-purpose room at Frierson.

Q: What is the likelihood that the multi-purpose room project will be funded with FCO funds?
A: There is little likelihood that the FCO will fund the project. The Board of Trustees approved the FY25 FCO project list in February 2024.

The work order cited by the SIC on the FCO FY24 list is an "additional project requested," which means that the district has validated the project need. The project remains of the "additional projects requested" on the FCO FY25, totaling $39 million. Of note is that the largest individual project funded for a school in the FY25 FCO program is $800,000, well below the cost of a multi-purpose room.

Q: When is the next capital program/plan?
A: In the Fall of 2025, the Capital Projects team will hold meetings in each constituent district to gather input for projects. This input will, in turn, be utilized in the next Capital Master Plan, leading to proposed projects for the next Sales Tax Referendum in November 2026.

We currently have projects planned and funded through January 2026.

Q: When is the next sales tax referendum?
A: The next sales tax referendum will be on the ballot in November 2026. It will fund projects through 2035.

Q: How do we get our project listed on the November 2026 ballot?
A: In the Fall of 2025, the Capital Projects team will hold meetings in each constituent district to gather input for projects. This input will, in turn, be utilized in the next Capital Master Plan, leading to proposed projects for the next Sales Tax Referendum in November 2026.

It will be incredibly important to mobilize the Frierson community to attend the meeting held in its region. You can find an example of how the ECHS community received information in 2019 here.

Additionally, the language of the ballot will be presented to and approved by the Board of Trustees, anticipated in July 2026 leading up to that approval; it will be important for members of the Frierson community to communicate to the Board of Trustees its desires.

From a strategic perspective, it may be wise for the Frierson community to consider collaborating with the other seven elementary schools that do not have dedicated multi-purpose spaces, as listing all schools together on the ballot may be most appealing to a large cross-section of voters.

Q: Does the district do any type of advertising for the sales tax referendum?
A: No, the district must maintain neutrality. School communities can mobilize their constituencies. See this September 2020 example from Early College High School.

Q: Are there any other opportunities that we have to get the project funded outside of the Sales Tax Referendum and Fixed Cost of Ownership?
A: No, there are not.

Q: How does this project align with the goals, vision, and efforts of the current school administration?
A: This project aligns with the goals, visions, and efforts of Frierson by addressing the priorities of the administrator. Principal Smalls' priorities are to improve the school's data, increase the current population of the school, and create a positive culture and climate for scholars and staff. The space will meet the needs of the scholars physically, socially, and academically, which will in turn, improve the school's data. Moreover, it will foster a conducive environment for learning, collaboration, and personal growth, enhancing the culture and climate overall and the educational experience for scholars as the population grows.

Q: What bearing does the 2009 "Rural School Covenant" have on this project?
A: From the district's perspective, we read the meeting minutes provided as a commitment to add a Montessori program and to do so: "*Only viable space currently available at Frierson (Program within a school*" (see page 9).